

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS SAMANTHA ARMENTROUT**DEFENDANTS CBE GROUP, INC.**

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff BERKS
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Cary L. Flitter, Esq., and Andrew M. Miltz, Esq., Flitter Lorenz, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101, Narberth, PA 19072, (610) 822-0782

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | PTF | DEF | PTF | DEF |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition		

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened

Transferred from ☐ 5 another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause: TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No.

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

9/11/13

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

[Signature]

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

APPENDIX F

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 1666 Chestnut Hill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543

Address of Defendant: 1309 Technology Parkway, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1666 Chestnut Hill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543

(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes ☐ No ☒

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Yes ☐ No ☒

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: _____ Judge _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes ☐ No ☒

CIVIL: (Place ☒ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA
3. ☐ Jones Act-Personal Injury
4. ☐ Antitrust
5. ☐ Patent
6. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
7. ☐ Civil Rights
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases
10. ☐ Social Security Review Cases
11. ☒ All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify) TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury
3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. ☐ Products Liability
8. ☐ Products Liability (Asbestos)
9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify)

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check appropriate Category)

I, Andrew M. M. 1/2, counsel of record do hereby certify:

☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;

☒ Relief other than monetary damages is sought

DATE: 9/11/13

[Signature]
Attorney-at-Law

207715
Attorney I.D.

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 9/11/13

[Signature]
Attorney-at-Law

207715
Attorney I.D.

APPENDIX I

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

SAMANTHA ARMENTROUT	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
V.	:	
	:	
CBE GROUP, INC.	:	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. §2241 through §2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

9/11/13
Date


Attorney at Law

Andrew M. Milz
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E-Mail Address

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SAMANTHA ARMENTROUT, nee
SAMANTHA CASE
1666 Chestnut Hill Road
Morgantown, PA 19543

Plaintiff

vs.

CBE GROUP, INC.
1309 Technology Parkway
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Defendant

CIVIL ACTION

NO.

COMPLAINT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual consumer for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 (hereinafter “TCPA”) and Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 (“FDCPA”).

2. The TCPA broadly prohibits any person from placing calls using an automated telephone dialing system or artificial or prerecorded voice to a cellular phone. The FDCPA prohibits misleading and harassing conduct in the effort to collect a debt.

3. Defendant harassed Plaintiff with repeated autodialed collection calls to Plaintiff’s cell phone, in violation of the TCPA and FDCPA.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s TCPA and FDCPA claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331; *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Ser., Inc.*, 132 S.Ct. 740 (2012).

5. Venue in this Court is proper in that Plaintiff resides here, the conduct complained of occurred here, and the Defendant transacts business here.

III. PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Samantha Armentrout, nee Samantha Case, is a natural person residing in Morgantown, PA with a mailing address as captioned.

7. Defendant CBE Group, Inc. (“Defendant” or “CBE”) is an Iowa debt collector with a primary place of business in Cedar Falls, IA as captioned.

8. CBE is a corporation, and at all relevant times was, a “person” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

9. CBE is a “debt collector” as that term is contemplated in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

10. Plaintiff Samantha Armentrout has a cellular telephone number (ending in 7257) which she carries on her person and regularly uses.

11. Plaintiff only uses this number as a cellular telephone number and does not believe that it was ever ported from a wireline service.

12. At all relevant times, this phone number was assigned to a cellular telephone service Plaintiff used and paid for.

13. Beginning on or about July 2, 2013, and continuing to the present, CBE began placing calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number in the effort to collect an old utility bill allegedly owed to its client, PECO.

14. The alleged PECO bill was incurred for personal, family or household use.

15. CBE placed at least 30 calls to Plaintiff's cell phone from July 2, 2013 to the present.

16. When answered, there would be a long pause or a recording, consistent with an automated telephone dialing system.

17. It is believed, and therefore averred, that the calls made by CBE to Plaintiff's cell phone were made using either an automatic telephone dialing system, as that term is defined in 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1), or an artificial or prerecorded voice.

18. Plaintiff never provided her cell phone number to Defendant or its client, PECO, and thus CBE never had the "prior express consent" that is required by the TCPA.

19. These telephone calls were not made for "emergency purposes," as defined by the Federal Communication Commission in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200.

20. Defendant willfully placed these auto-dialed calls to Plaintiff without Plaintiff's consent.

21. CBE's repeated autodialed calls were intentionally made in the effort to harass or abuse Plaintiff in violation of the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. §1692d, d(5).

22. CBE used false, deceptive or misleading means in collecting the alleged debt, including taking an action it could not legally take. 15 U.S.C. §1692e, e(5).

COUNT I – CBE'S VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA

23. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained above as if the same were here set forth at length.

24. Defendant has violated the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq. and its implementing Regulation at 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200 *et seq* by making any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any

automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

25. Plaintiff is entitled, under the TCPA, to statutory damages of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,500.00 for each autodialed or artificial/pre-recorded telephone call to her cellular phone.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant CBE Group, Inc. for the following:

- (a) Statutory damages for each call, pursuant to the TCPA;
- (b) A declaration that Defendant's calls violate the TCPA and must cease;
- (b) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

COUNT II – CBE'S VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA

26. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained above as if the same were here set forth at length.

27. The acts by Defendant described above violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, in the following ways:

- (a) By engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress or abuse any person in the collection of a debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692d; and
- (b) By using any false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant CBE Group, Inc. for the following:

- (a) Damages;

- (b) Attorney's fees and costs;
- (c) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

V. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted:

Date:

9/11/13



CARY L. FLITTER
THEODORE E. LORENZ
ANDREW M. MILZ

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Attorneys for Plaintiff